

Epi Update for Friday, October 4, 2019
Center for Acute Disease Epidemiology (CADE)
Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH)

Items for this week's Epi Update include:

- **Eastern equine encephalitis in the news**
- **Pumpkin patch and apple orchard safety**
- **Epi Quiz**
- **In the news: A hot tub display at a North Carolina state fair may be the origin of a deadly outbreak of Legionnaires' disease**
- **In the news: Inside the massive effort to tackle one of America's greatest rabies threats**
- **In the news: CDC anticipates U.S. will maintain its measles elimination status**
- **Infographic: Raw milk – Know the raw facts**
- **Meeting announcements and training opportunities**

Eastern equine encephalitis in the news

Eastern equine encephalitis (EEE) has been in the news recently due to an increase in cases and deaths around the U.S. EEE virus is one of a group of mosquito-transmitted viruses that can cause encephalitis. While the majority of EEE illnesses are reported in the Atlantic and Gulf Coast states, some reports have come from the Great Lakes region. No EEE cases have ever been reported in Iowa.

West Nile virus continues to be the highest risk mosquito-transmitted virus in Iowa and activity will continue until the first hard freezes. Please remind patients to take the following steps to reduce their risk of exposure to mosquitoes:

- Use insect repellent with DEET, Picaridin, oil of lemon eucalyptus or IR3535. Always read the repellent label and consult with a health care provider if you have questions when using these types of products for children. For example, oil of lemon eucalyptus should not be used on children under 3 years of age and DEET should not be used on children less than 2 months of age.
- Avoid outdoor activities at dusk and dawn when mosquitoes are most active.
- Wear long-sleeved shirts, pants, shoes and socks outdoors whenever possible.
- Eliminate standing water around the home because that's where mosquitoes lay eggs.
- Empty water from buckets, cans, pool covers and pet water dishes.
- Change water in bird baths every three to four days.

For more information about EEE, visit www.cdc.gov/easterequineencephalitis/index.html.

Pumpkin patch and apple orchard safety

Many Iowans visit pumpkin patches, apple orchards and farms during the fall. These trips can be fun and educational, but do have risks. Pathogens such as *E. coli*, *Cryptosporidium* and others can be spread by farm and animal contact, or consumption of unpasteurized milk, juice or cider. Past outbreaks in Iowa have been associated with unpasteurized apple cider, caused by *Cryptosporidium* and *E. coli* O157:H7, for example.

Here are a few tips to remember when visiting pumpkin patches, farms and orchards:

- Make sure any milk, juice or cider you drink has been pasteurized. If you are unsure, check the label or ask if the product has been pasteurized.
- Wash your hands with soap and water before eating and after visiting the farm, patch or orchard.
- Wash apples and other produce before eating them.

If someone believes they became ill due to consuming any food or drink, they can call 1-844-IowaSic. This hotline helps IDPH identify potential outbreaks, and guides investigations by the Department of Inspections and Appeals' Food and Consumer Safety Bureau.

For more information, visit idph.iowa.gov/cade/foodborne-illness.

Epi Quiz

Answer available at the bottom of the Epi Update.

On October 31, 2016, an outbreak of norovirus associated with a Halloween-themed swimming pool party at a public pool occurred. There was a 73% attack rate among 93 survey respondents, mostly children. There were no known fecal or vomiting incidents in the pool. What was deliberately done to the pool that enabled the outbreak to occur?

Quiz questions compliments of Richard Danila, Minnesota Department of Health.

In the news: A hot tub display at a North Carolina state fair may be the origin of a deadly outbreak of Legionnaires' disease

www.cnn.com/2019/10/04/health/legionnaires-north-carolina-hot-tubs-trnd/index.html

In the news: Inside the massive effort to tackle one of America's greatest rabies threats

www.nationalgeographic.com/animals/2019/09/massive-effort-eradicate-raccoon-rabies/

In the news: CDC anticipates U.S. will maintain its measles elimination status

www.cnn.com/2019/10/03/health/measles-elimination-status-bn/index.html

Infographic: Raw milk – Know the raw facts



To view in full size, visit www.cdc.gov/foodsafety/pdfs/raw-milk-infographic2-508c.pdf.

Meeting announcements and training opportunities

The Association of Public Health Laboratories (APHL) is hosting a free webinar, *Biosafety: Out of the Box*, October 31 from 1-2 PM. Intended for anyone who works in or supervises a public health or clinical laboratory, the program will provide unique approaches on how to build and promote biosafety practices in the laboratory workplace.

To register, visit [aphl.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_waw3anlaRyiY9SGPbp_j9Q](https://aphl.zoom.us/j/91234567890).

Have a healthy and happy week!

Center for Acute Disease Epidemiology
Iowa Department of Public Health
800-362-2736

Epi quiz answer:

The pool was dyed red. The dye manufacturer specified that chlorine levels needed to be <1 ppm or the dye would dissipate quickly, so the pool automated chlorine dispenser was turned off. The level was measured at 0.24 ppm just before the event, and 0.0 ppm the morning after the event.